

Book Review: B.S. Parris, R. Kiew, R.C.K. Chung, L.G. Saw & E. Soepadmo (eds). 2010. **Flora of Peninsular Malaysia, Series I. Ferns and Lycophytes. Vol. 1.** (Malayan Forest Records, No. 48). Forest Research Institute Malaysia, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia. 249 pp. Price: RM80/USD60

A new flora useful to the study of Singapore pteridophytes is now available. The volume 1 of the new Flora of Peninsular Malaysia, Series I, dealing with fern and lycophyte groups, has just been published.

The flora, according to the new publication, was initiated to document the indigenous plant diversity by providing reliable and accurate accounts of plant families, genera and species found in Peninsular Malaysia, with updated nomenclatures. It will consist of two series, with Series II dealing with gymnosperms and angiosperms.

The Vol. 1 of Series I of the new flora described 100 species in 21 genera and 9 families of ferns and lycophytes, representing about a sixth of the spore producing vascular flora of the peninsula. The families treated by various authors and included in vol. 1 are Selaginellaceae (K.M. Wong), Psilotaceae (R. Kiew), Equisetaceae (R. Kiew), Osmundaceae (R. Jaman), Matoniaceae (R. Jaman & Y. Umi Kalsom), Schizaeaceae (R. Jaman & Y. Umi Kalsom), Cibotiaceae (A.T. Nor Ezzawanis), Loxogrammeaceae (R. Jaman) and Grammitidaceae (B.S. Parris). All species are shown with a distribution map and provided with an assessment of their conservation status. But only selected species of each family are nicely and accurately illustrated with line drawings. However, each family is further illustrated with beautiful coloured photos of a few more representative species.

There is one nomenclatural novelty proposed in vol. 1 of the new flora, namely, *Tomophyllum callophyllum* (C.H. Wright) Parris, and no new species record is reported. The biggest taxonomical change is seen in the Family Grammitidaceae where several new generic concepts recently proposed based on molecular evidence are accepted.

Aside from the useful information on the taxonomy and nomenclature, the book includes also a conspectus of the orders, families and genera of ferns and lycophytes of Peninsular Malaysia, keys to the families, genera and species of the plant groups treated, a historical account of botanical collecting of ferns and lycophytes in Peninsular Malaysia, and interestingly, a chapter on the assessment and conservation of these plant groups in Peninsular Malaysia. A glossary and a separate index to the scientific names and vernacular/common names of the taxa conclude the volume.

I have one question in mind after browsing through the hundred pages of the flora. Figures A & B in Plate 2 represent two different species?

As a student of Malesian pteridophyte flora, I definitely look forward to the completion of the publication of Series 1 of this new flora. The authors of vol. 1 of Series 1 of the new flora are to be congratulated for this timely and well-done accomplishment.

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